

Message Text

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FOR HODDING CARTER FROM S/PRSNO. 7

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS R.)

SUBJECT: EVENING TRAVELLING PRESS SUMMARY, AUGUST 8

NEWSPAPERS

L.A. TIMES--OSWALD JOHNSTON FROM ALEXANDRIA

LEAD: "VANCE OPENED TALKS WITH SADAT, WHO HAS EMERGED AS
THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S BEST HOPE OF KEEPING UP THE
FLAGGING MOMENTUM OF THE U.S. INITIATIVE FOR PEACE IN ME."

OTHER POINTS:

-- SENIOR OFFICIAL TOLD REPORTERS VANCE ENCOURAGED BY
SADAT'S DESIRE TO GO TO GENEVA CONFERENCE AND HIS STATEMENT
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THAT "ALTERNATIVE" COULD BE FOUND TO PLO REPRESENTATION AT
CONFERENCE. -

-- VANCE/SADAT MEETING LASTED DOUBLE THE TIME ORIGINALLY
ALLOTTED, REVIEWING MAIN PROBLEMS OF ME. SECOND MEETING
SCHEDULED WITH VIEW TO "CLOSING BOOK" ON SOME ISSUES IF
AGREEMENT CAN BE REACHED.

-- VANCE PARTY UNUSUALLY DISCREET ON SPECIFICS OF TALKS, BUT KEY ISSUES ARE CLEAR: PLO PARTICIPATION AT GENEVA; ARAB OFFER IN RETURN FOR ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL; HOW MUCH TERRITORY ISRAEL IS WILLING TO CEDE BACK.

WIRES

UPI--JIM ANDERSON FROM ALEXANDRIA

AFTERNOON LEAD: "VANCE HAS RUN INTO SNAG IN HIS MISSION TO PAVE THE WAY FOR GENEVA MIDDLE EAST CONFERENCE, EGYPTIAN SOURCES SAID TODAY."

OTHER POINTS:

-- SOURCES SAID VANCE PRESENTED PLAN LINKING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL TO FULL ACCEPTANCE OF ISRAEL BY ARAB STATES WITHIN 5 YEARS.

-- EGYPTIAN SOURCES SAID PLAN NOT ACCEPTABLE BECAUSE THEY WANT ISRAEL TO WITHDRAW SOONER.

-- EGYPTIANS CLOSE TO THE DISCUSSIONS SAID AMERICANS SUGGESTED PLO BE ACCEPTED AT GENEVA "IF THE PLO WOULD ACCEPT THE FRAMEWORK OF THE CONFERENCE". THUS, PLO WOULD ACCEPT UNCLASSIFIED

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EXISTENCE OF ISRAEL WITHOUT HAVING TO GO THROUGH HUMILIATION OF AMENDING ITS CHARTER.

EVENING LEAD: "FACED BY DISAGREEMENT OVER CRUCIAL ISSUES, VANCE AND SADAT SAID TUESDAY A WORKING GROUP OF FMS WILL MEET IN U.S. NEXT MONTH TO PAVE WAY FOR FULL SCALE GENEVA CONFERENCE.

OTHER POINTS:

-- SADAT TOLD NEWS CONFERENCE THE GROUP WOULD DEAL WITH MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE AS WELL AS PROCEDURE.

-- VANCE SAID GROUP "WILL MEET AS LONG AS IT'S USEFUL", MEETING MOST LIKELY IN NEW YORK IN MID SEPTEMBER BUT POSSIBLY IN WASHINGTON AS WELL.

AP--BARRY SCHWEID FROM ALEXANDRIA

LEAD: "U.S. AND EGYPT WILL ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH WORKING GROUP OF MIDEAST FMS TO PREPARE FOR PEACE CONFERENCE BEFORE END OF YEAR, VANCE SAID TODAY."

OTHER POINTS:

-- VANCE SAID SETTING UP GROUP WILL REQUIRE APPROVAL OF ISRAEL, SYRIA, AND JORDAN, AND PARTICIPATION LIMITED TO "CONFRONTATION STATES", EXCLUDING PLO.

-- VANCE SAID HE AND SADAT REACHED NO AGREEMENT ON WHETHER PLO WOULD BE ALLOWED OBSERVER ROLE IN WORKING GROUP.

REUTERS--FULL TEXT ROY GUTMAN STORY ON PRESS CONFERENCE BEING SENT VERBATIM BY SEPTTEL.

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VALERIANI: AFTER CONCLUDING TWO ROUNDS OF INTENSIVE TALKS ON HOW TO REVIVE ARAB-ISRAELI NEGOTIATIONS, VANCE AND SADAT HELD AN OPEN-AIR NEWS CONFERENCE OUTSIDE SADAT'S SUMMER RESIDENCE. THEY SAID THEY HAD AGREED THAT VANCE SHOULD NOW TRY TO SET UP A WORKING GROUP TO LAY THE GROUND WORK FOR A GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE, BUT THE DETAILS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT.

VANCE: I WILL BE TALKING TO THE OTHER PARTIES ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUGGESTION AND WOULD HOPE THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO ASSEMBLE SUCH A WORKING GROUP IN THE U.S. AROUND MID-SEPTEMBER.

SADAT: WE SHOULDN'T SEEK TO DISCUSS JUST PROCEDURAL ARRANGEMENTS OR SO. TO BE PRACTICAL AND NOT TO LOSE TIME AND TO ACHIEVE WHAT WE ARE AFTER, AND THAT IS PEACE, SUBSTANCE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED.

VALERIANI: THE WORKING GROUP, IF IT'S FORMED, WOULD BE MADE UP OF THE FMS OF THE COUNTRIES INVOLVED AND WOULD BEGIN MEETING IN WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK IN SEPTEMBER. IT WOULD ALSO PROVIDE A MECHANISM FOR GETTING AROUND THE SO-CALLED INSOLVABLE PROBLEM OF PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION AT THE PEACE TALKS. VANCE IS LIKELY TO RETURN HERE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSIONS OF THIS IDEA WITH PRESIDENT SADAT BEFORE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON.

ABC

WALTERS: SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE AND EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT ENDED TWO DAYS OF TALKS IN ALEXANDRIA TODAY. THE TWO MEN AGREED ON AN INTERIM STEP OF RE-OPENING THE PEACE
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CONFERENCE AND BARRY DUNSMORE HAS THAT STORY FOR US.

DUNSMORE: THE MEETINGS BETWEEN SECRETARY VANCE AND PRESIDENT SADAT WERE DESCRIBED AS VERY HELPFUL, FRUITFUL, AND CORDIAL. IN SHORT, THEY WENT ABOUT AS EXPECTED. VANCE IS LOOKING FOR A FORMULA FOR BREAKING THE IMPASS OVER PALESTINIAN REPRESENTATION IN A GENEVA PEACE CONFERENCE. THE ARABS HAVE SAID THE PALESTINIAN LIBERATION ORGANIZATION MUST BE THERE; THE ISRAELIS WON'T DEAL WITH THE PLO. HOWEVER, THE VANCE/SADAT TALKS HAVE APPEARED TO COME UP WITH A WAY AROUND THIS, AND IN A NEWS CONFERENCE THIS EVENING IN ALEXANDRIA SADAT EXPLAINED HIS IDEAS FOR A WORKING GROUP TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR A GENEVA CONFERENCE.

SADAT: I HAVE ASKED SECRETARY VANCE TO FORM THIS WORKING GROUP THAT I HAVE ALREADY SUGGESTED DURING MY VISIT TO THE STATES LAST APRIL SO THAT THE PREPARATION FOR THE GENEVA CONFERENCE COULD BE, I MEAN, FRUITFUL AND EFFECTIVE IN BRINGING OUT A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IN THE AREA.

DUNSMORE: AS PRESENTLY CONCEIVED, THE WORKING GROUP WOULD INCLUDE THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF EGYPT, JORDAN, SYRIA, AND ISRAEL. IT WOULD MEET FIRST AT WASHINGTON AND THEN AT THE U.N. IN NEW YORK FOR AS LONG AS NECESSARY. NEITHER VANCE NOR SADAT WOULD CONCEDE THAT SUCH A GROUP COULD, IN FACT, REPLACE THE WORK OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE, BUT IT CERTAINLY IS A WAY TO GET THE PARTIES TALKING WITHOUT THE PALESTINIANS.

CBS

MUDD: VANCE AND SADAT TODAY MET ISRAELI OBJECTIONS TO ANY PLO PARTICIPATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE TALKS. THEY AGREED TO WORK FOR A PRELIMINARY MEETING EARLY THIS FALL IN THE U.S. OF FMS FROM EGYPT, SYRIA, JORDAN, AND ISRAEL, EFFECTIVELY FREEZING OUT THE PALESTINE LIBERATION ORGANIZATION.

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TION.

KALB: SADAT AND VANCE EMERGED FROM THEIR SECOND MEETING AT THE PRESIDENTIAL VILLA OVERLOOKING THE MEDITERRANEAN AND FOUND A NEWS CONFERENCE WAITING FOR THEM. THEIR SPOKESMEN HAD BEEN DUCKING QUESTIONS DEALING WITH SUBSTANCE, AND IT WAS ONLY AT THIS JOINT CONFERENCE AND ON THE BASIS OF AN

EXCHANGE OF VIEWS THAT THEY PROVIDED SOME DETAILS. AND THEY PUT FORTH A PLAN TO ORGANIZE A WORKING GROUP THAT WOULD BEGIN MEETINGS IN SEPTEMBER AS A PRELUDE TO A HOPED-FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE.

SADAT: I HAVE ASKED, ALSO, SECRETARY VANCE TO FORM THIS WORKING GROUP THAT I HAD ALREADY SUGGESTED DURING MY VISIT TO THE STATES LAST APRIL.

VANCE: I WILL BE TALKING TO THE OTHER PARTIES ABOUT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS SUGGESTION AND WOULD HOPE THAT IT MAY BE POSSIBLE TO ASSEMBLE SUCH A WORKING GROUP IN THE U.S. AROUND MID-SEPTEMBER.

KALB: IT IS TAKEN FOR GRANTED THAT SOME OF THE POSITIVE REMARKS EXPRESSED BY SADAT AND VANCE ARE DESIGNED TO KEEP THE DIPLOMATIC MOMENTUM GOING. THE FACT IS, THOUGH, IT IS STILL TOO EARLY IN THIS MISSION TO THE ME TO TELL WHETHER VANCE WILL BE ABLE TO PRODUCE THE NECESSARY ARAB-ISRAELI COMPROMISES FOR THE ULTIMATE CONVENING OF A GENEVA CONFERENCE. CHRISTOPHER

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